

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claims as amended:

1. (currently amended) A seal comprising a seal edge which in use is held in close proximity to a relatively rotating surface, the edge being reinforced by creases wherein the creases are presented at predetermined angles and formed in a surface element and extending away from the edge of the surface element, characterised in that perforations are provided adjacent to the seal edge to allow air leakage through the seal, the leaking air providing a lifting force on the seal.
2. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that slots are provided between the creases to introduce flexibility into the seal.
3. (previously cancelled).
4. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the seal includes a plurality of edges in a seal assembly and these edges are presented upon respective spaced seal surface elements of the seal assembly.
5. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the perforations are graded outwardly from the edge.
6. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 5 wherein the perforations near to the edge are relatively small compared to perforations further displayed from the edge and characterised in that the sizes of the perforations vary.
7. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 6 wherein the perforations nearer to the edge have a greater population density per unit area compared to perforations further spaced from the edge.
8. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the perforations are constricted from one side of the seal to the other.
9. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the creases are angular relative to the edge.
10. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 4 wherein creases in the adjacent spaced seal surface elements are in a respectively opposed relationship relative to each other.

11. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots extend in a generally perpendicular direction from the edge of the seal.
12. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots terminate in one of a keyhole and a bulbous end to inhibit crack propagation due to flexing of the edge.
13. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots are of varying lengths extending from the edge.
14. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots have a length at least equivalent to the expected wear depth in use of the seal.
15. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is substantially straight between respective creases.
16. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is curved between respective creases.
17. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of a stiffener fold and a stiffener element is secured to the seal to further reinforce each edge.
18. (previously amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that a flow deflector is provided to direct air through the seal.
19. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is formed upon a spiral which extends for a number of cycles to form the seal.

Claims 20-30 were withdrawn.

31. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that a number of seals are secured in alignment with the respective seal edges presented towards that relatively rotating surface.
32. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 31 characterised in that spacing elements are located between adjacent seals.
33. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 31 characterised in that the respective seals are secured in a recess or aperture.